### Maryland Artist/Teacher Institute

# **Arts Integrated Lesson Plan**





Lesson Title: Exploring the events that lead up to the American Revolution through tableaux	Grade: 8
Contributor, School: William Tegan, Southern Middle School	Time Frame: 45–60 minutes

State Curriculum Content Standards, Indicators, Objectives		
Theatre Content Standard(s)	Social Studies Content Standard(s)	
3.0 Creative Expression and Production	History	
Students will demonstrate the ability to apply theatrical knowledge, principles, and practices to collaborative theatre presentations.	5.0 Students will examine significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland and the United States.	
	Topic C: Conflict Between Ideas and Institutions	
Theatre Content Indicator(s)	Social Studies Content Indicator(s)	
3.2 Develop performance and production skills required for theatrical performance.	5.1 Examine and explain the role of religious, social, and political institutions in America at the end of the American Revolution.	
Theatre Content Objective(s)	Social Studies Content Objective(s)	
3.2.a Use selected behaviors, vocal skills, posture, movement, and techniques to create sustained and believable original characters and characters drawn from dramatic literature of a variety of cultures and historical periods.	5.1.a Analyze the political effects of the American Revolution on American society and culture. 5.1.c Describe how unresolved social, economic, and political issues impacted disenfranchised groups.	

#### Objective(s) (Connecting to the content area)

The students will create tableaux using the basic acting tools and skills that demonstrate the facts and feelings of the colonists during key events that led up to the American Revolution.

Key Arts Vocabulary tableaux, acting Tools and basic acting skills	Key Social Studies Vocabulary parliament, prime minister, budget, boycott, Sons of Liberty

#### **Prior Knowledge Students Need for This Lesson**

#### Arts

- Skill building activities that develop the acting tools and skills
- Experience working with tableaux

#### **Social Studies**

 Knowledge about the struggle between the colonists and the British

#### **Materials and Resources**

#### **Materials and Resources for the Class**

- Poster: Guidelines for Successful Tableau
- Handouts describing key events
- Highlighters
- Observation checklist

#### Materials and Resources for the Teacher

- Poster: Guidelines for Successful Tableau
- Observation checklist

## Lesson Development/Procedures (including motivation, modeling, guided practice, and independent practice)

- Teacher will lead the students in drama skill building activities focusing on concentration and cooperation.
- The teacher will review the posted Guidelines for Successful Tableaux.
- The teacher will facilitate the students in a discussion about the Boston Tea Party. Students will observe illustrations of the event, discuss the feelings of those involved, and then create a model tableau of the event. The teacher will use the "Shoulder Tap" for those students who are focused to say the first thing their character would say at this moment in time. A reflective discussion will follow.
- Students will be divided into four groups. Each group will receive a handout describing one of the other key events that led to the American Revolution.
- Students will read about the event and highlight the key nouns, verbs, and
  descriptive words. They will use those words to guide the creation of a tableau
  that reflects the facts and feelings of the event. They will create a title for the
  tableau
- Students will be provided with an observation checklist to use as they observe each group.
- Each group will present its tableau and title. The teacher will use "The Shoulder Tap" to reveal the character's feelings.
- A reflective discussion will follow each presentation.

#### Closure/Summary

A reflective discussion will summarize what the students learned in the lesson.

#### Assessment (Description/Tools)

- A reflective discussion will follow each presentation that will allow students to reflect on the use of the posted Guidelines for Successful Tableaux and the observation checklist. The Guidelines for Successful Tableaux will serve as an informal checklist for the tableaux presentations. The guidelines should include: point of concentration, stillness, levels, use of accurate information, inferred dialogue for the Shoulder Tap, and a title.
- Students will be provided with an observation checklist to use as they observe
  each group. The checklist will assess the use of body, voice, and concentration
  as well as accuracy of information about the event.

#### **Lesson Extensions**

- Students can revise these tableaux to improve them based on the guidelines and feedback from classmates.
- Students can redo these tableaux to present the same events from the point of view of the British.